

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Iredell COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

QUAD

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Snow Creek Methodist Church and Burying Ground

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER S side SR 1904, 0.3 mile W. of Jct. with SR 1905

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Central

9th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

037

Iredell

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Snow Creek Methodist Church
Rev. Robert M. Harris, Pastor

STREET & NUMBER

Route 5, Box 103A

CITY, TOWN

Statesville

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28677

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Laura A. W. Phillips (Winston-Salem)

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey & Planning Branch

DATE

February 4, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Archives and History

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Snow Creek Methodist Church and Burying Ground are located on the south side of SR 1904 about a mile north of Snow Creek near the point where it flows into the South Yadkin River. The church and cemetery are positioned near the top of a hill with open fields to the north and east and woodlands to the west and south. The church faces southward toward the woods and Snow Creek, and the cemetery is arranged within a stone-fence area behind the church.

The present church building was erected in 1884-1885 and is a simple example of the late Greek Revival style. The frame 1 x 4 bay building has a steep gable roof with boxed eaves, wide eave returns and a plain frieze board under the eaves. The windows along either side of the church are large, 9/9 sash with wood-louvered shutters. A small rectangular apse projects from the rear of the building. Originally the church had no projections from the front gable-end facade, and instead had two double-leaf doors with four-light transoms above. Its original form was very similar in design to nearby Bethany Presbyterian Church and was generally of the same type as Centre Presbyterian Church at the south end of the county, which is to say, it exhibited the same basic late Greek Revival form typical of many Piedmont churches built during the mid to late nineteenth century. (See sections of nomination for Bethany Presbyterian Church and Centre Presbyterian Church.) During the mid-twentieth century a vestibule, which repeated the design of the main body of the church with steep gable roof, boxed eaves with wide returns, frieze board and tall, narrow louvered vent, was added to the front of the church along with a small entrance porch with three plain posts clustered at each corner. The church rests on a low fieldstone foundation.

The interior of Snow Creek Methodist Church remains largely unaltered. The flush-sheathed walls and ceiling give a rather austere appearance. Some decorative relief is provided by the broad segmental arch, supported by scrolled brackets and headed by a carved fleur-de-lis type ornament, which leads to a shallow apse. The original double-leaf front entrances are still intact, now connecting the sanctuary with the added vestibule.

Connected to the west side of the church by a breezeway is a mid-twentieth century, one-story frame education building with simple gable-end facade which is sympathetic to the design of the main building.

Behind the church is the Snow Creek Burying Ground, established in 1780 although most tombstones date from post 1800. Some are delightful examples of the sculptural abilities of local artisans, such as the stone of Mary Feimster (1810) which shows a mourning woman in classical garb leaning on a tomb with urn, rather crudely done and signed by J. Hall, and the stone of Mary's husband, Capt. William Feimster (1842) which pictures an old man seated in an armchair also rather crudely executed, but this time unsigned. (See section of nomination on William Feimster House.)

Surrounding the cemetery is a dry-laid fieldstone wall with flat top about three feet high. Apparently the wall was rebuilt, for a granite marker near the south gate says "Cemetery Enlarged and Wall Rebuilt 1954 by Field & Stream Garden Club" and a plaque on the wall next to the gate says, "Gates Constructed by Allen and Ernest 'Billy' Journey as a contribution to Snow Creek Cemetery 1954." However, the stone post into which this gate is hinged carries the carved words "VELYN 1879." This wrought-iron gate is composed of simple vertical pickets. The west wall of the cemetery has a wrought-iron gate of more elaborate design. This gate is composed of vertical rails which terminate in finials of a flame or teardrop shape, the pointed tips of which are turned toward the center rail of the gate. This west gate is similar to the main gate at Bethany cemetery (see Bethany Presbyterian Church section of nomination) and both of these are more decorative than those found in South Iredell.

The church and cemetery at Snow Creek are both well maintained.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

____ **X** LOCAL

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1885**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Snow Creek Methodist Church is a well-preserved late Greek Revival country church built in 1884-1885. The congregation, however, dates from 1801 when the Great Revival swept into Iredell. It became one of the most prominent in the county during the nineteenth century when Methodism was at its height. Snow Creek Burying Ground, which predates the congregation by some twenty years, contains imaginatively carved gravestones and decorative wrought-iron gates which rank among the finest in the county.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Snow Creek Methodist Church is associated with the beginnings of the practical manifestations of the Great Revival in religion which swept Iredell County shortly after the turn of the nineteenth century.
- C. The present Snow Creek Methodist Church, built in 1884-1885, embodies the distinctive characteristics of late Greek Revival style religious architecture as interpreted in Piedmont country churches during the middle and second half of the nineteenth century. Snow Creek Burying Ground possesses both gravestones and wrought-iron gates which exhibit the imaginative design capabilities of local artisans in nineteenth century Iredell.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Snow Creek Burying Ground was established in 1780, when Arnold McArmand died from a rattlesnake bite and his body could not be taken across the flooded South Yadkin River to Bethany Cemetery for burial.¹ For years Snow Creek Burying Ground served as a common tie between the Methodist and Presbyterian elements in the community, for members of both persuasion were buried there, including twenty-two Revolutionary War soldiers.

It was not until nearly a quarter of a century after the burying ground was established that a Methodist congregation became associated with the site. In the fall of 1801, Philip Bruce, a young itinerant preacher, wrote to Francis Asbury that he had organized two Methodist societies in the Snow Creek territory of north Iredell where he had been holding prayer meetings. One of these societies was organized at Squire William Sharpe's home near Snow Creek and was composed of about fifty people.³ This was on the eve of the Great Revival.⁴

Under the leadership of Richard Hugg King, a licensed Methodist preacher who later became an ordained Presbyterian minister, and Peter Claywell, Sr., who had moved into the Snow Creek community from Virginia in 1800, the society which Philip Bruce had organized became a full-fledged church. In 1806 William Sharpe gave a deed for land next to Snow Creek Burying Ground for King's Methodist Episcopal Meeting House. King's Meeting House soon became known as Snow Creek.

While Snow Creek was not the first Methodist church in Iredell County, it became the most prominent during the pre-Civil War period ministering to a large number of black communicants as well as whites.⁶ By the end of this period the Methodist denomination had grown to be the strongest in Iredell with the largest membership, and Snow Creek itself became the main camp meeting site in north Iredell.

The present frame church was completed in 1885. The February 23, 1883, edition of The Landmark informed its readers that the Snow Creek congregation resolved "to build a new church building a frame building 38 x 50 feet, not to occupy the exact site of the existing church but nearer the graveyard."⁸ Work had commenced by the summer of 1884, but it was not until August 28, 1885, that The Landmark noted "the new Methodist Church at Snow Creek--a creditable building--has been completed, and the first service was held in it week before last."⁹

The burying ground received the attention of the Field and Stream Garden Club in 1954, and for these efforts the club won second place in the statewide garden club contest.¹⁰ In 1957 an "educational and activities building" was added to the complex.¹¹ Snow Creek is still in active use with a small congregation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Evans, Virginia Fraser, Compiler. Iredell County Landmarks. Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

"Great Revival in Iredell." Typewritten manuscript in Homer Keever files, James Iredell Room, Iredell County Public Library, Statesville, N.C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 3/4 (Approx.)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	50,7	3,5,0	3,9	7,3	6,8,0	B	1,7	50,7	1,0,0	3,9	7,3	6,8,0	
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	50,7	1,0,0	3,9	7,3	9,4,0	D	1,7	50,7	3,5,0	3,9	7,3	9,4,0	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Tract 13, Block A, Map 14G, Sharpesburg Township, as outlined in red on map.

The property being nominated consists of the church property, which includes the church, the cemetery and the surrounding wooded area which provides visual protection for the historic environment of the Snow Creek complex.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Iredell County

Snow Creek Methodist Church and Burying Ground

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Bibliographical References (Cont'd)

Iredell County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Iredell County Courthouse, Statesville. Microfilm copies at the State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Keever, Homer M. Iredell Piedmont County. Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

"William Sharpe File." Research Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Statesville Record and Landmark.

The Landmark. Statesville.

FOOTNOTES

¹Homer M. Keever, Iredell Piedmont County (Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 190, hereinafter cited as Keever, Iredell County.

²"Great Revival in Iredell," typewritten manuscript in Homer Keever files, James Iredell Room, Iredell County Public Library, Statesville, N.C.; Virginia Fraser Evans (compiler), Iredell County Landmarks (Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 38.

³William Sharpe (1742-1818) was one of western North Carolina's most outstanding revolutionary leaders. He served in the state legislature and in Continental Congress. He is buried at Snow Creek. "William Sharpe File," Research Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

⁴Keever, Iredell County, 189.

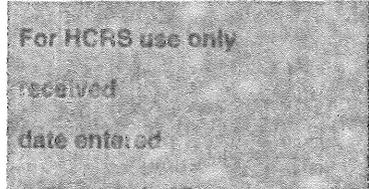
⁵Ibid., 189-190. The first deed citation mentioning a proposed meeting house is dated July 8, 1805. Iredell County Deed Book F, p. 86.

⁶Keever, Iredell County, 329.

⁷Ibid., 188, 190.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Snow Creek Methodist Church and Burying Ground
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Iredell County
Page 3

Footnotes (Cont'd)

⁸The (Statesville) Landmark, February 23, 1883.

⁹Ibid., August 22, 1884, August 28, 1885.

¹⁰Statesville Record and Landmark, January 10-12, 1955.

¹¹Ibid., August 16, 1957.

Brief Architectural Description:

Church bldg - gable end front 1 x 4 bay frame bldg of simple late Greek Revival design, built ca. 1880. Foundation has hand-hewn sills, circular sawn joists beneath apse.

Cemetery is completely surrounded by 3' high flat-topped fieldstone wall, very well-built. Pr. of gates in west flank of wall are handwrought, w/ decorative tulip-shaped finials on vertical rails. South gate is simpler, but appears hand-wrought also. ~~Side~~ Beside this gate, on stone gate post, is carved "Ve LYN 1879". Brass plaque on wall: "Gates constructed by Allen and Ernest "Billy" Turney as a contribution to Snow Creek Cemetery."

Brief Historical Significance:

Oldest inscribed marker found is to Hill Sharpe, died 1804. Burying ground established in 1780 when Arnold McArmand died of rattlesnake bite + couldn't be buried across river at Bethany. Congregation established at home of Wm. Sharpe in 1801. Most prominent congregation in county in Back Country period.

Sources: Keever, Iredell Piedmont County, p. 190

Owner Name and Address:

NAME Snow Creek Methodist Church County Iredell
 Location S side SR 1904 0.7 mi W of Town Clinton
Set with SR 1905 County Iredell

State Plan Thematic Categories	
Aboriginal	Political
X Arts	Recreation
Conservation	Science
Education	X Society
Expl & Settle.	Technology
Military	

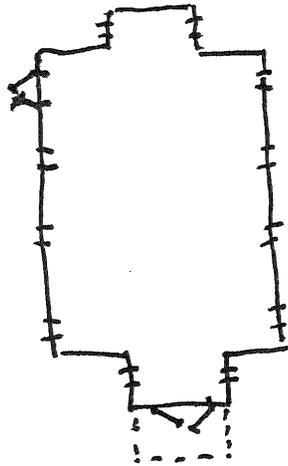
Inventory Source							
Files	SP	AT	FOR	RR	HAER	BlkH	Other
							X

Inventory Status (Date and Initial) RLS					
Visit	RecPh	PubPh	SL	NR	Map
4-77	4-77				4-77

Pub. Neg. Nos.	Slide Nos.
Overall	
Doc. Neg. Nos.	

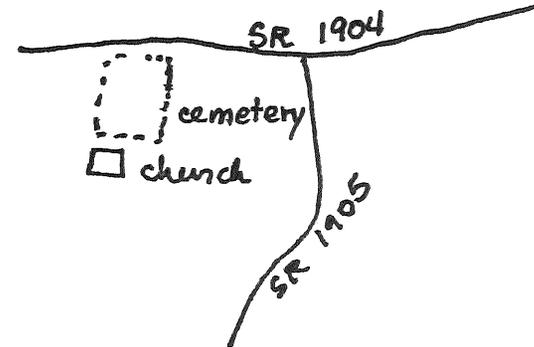


Floor Plan



Site Plan

22



PURPOSE	ENVIRONMENT	ARCHITECTURAL CHECKLIST		H	Material	Side Hall	M	Chimn Style
Res SFD	Urban	A	Style	D	Dates	Frame WB	Cent Hall	SSS
Res MFD	Small Town		Georgian		Fre 1800	Wb/nog	Irreg	SSP
Ag Sup	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural		Federal		1800-1825	Frame BB	Dog Trot	DSS
Commer	OCCUFANCY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gk Rev		1825-1865	Bk Com	Sddlbag	DSP
Indust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Owner		Ital Rev		1865-1885	Bk Flem	Other	
Trans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tenant		Goth Rev		1885-1915	Bk ven		N Porch
Govt	Vacant FHA/MoHo		Log		1915-1929	Bk other	J Roof	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relig	Deserted				Post 1929	Stone Cut	Gable	App Orig
Educ	Work in Progress		Triple-A	E	Height	Stone Rub	Gambrel	Not Orig
Other	CONDITION		Flain 19th		1 story	Stucco	Hip	
	Excellent		2nd Emp		1½ story	Log Wb	Shed	O Interiors
PRESENT USE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good		Queen A		2 story	Log dvtl	Other	Except 'l
(Lwelling)	Fair		Neo CLR		2½ story	Log ½dvtl	K Chimn Type	Signif
Res SFD	Deteriorated		Geo/Col R		3 or more	Log V	Int	Insignif
Res MFD	Ruin		Misc Vic	F	Width	Log dia	Int End	
Vac/Storage	Unexposed				1-2 bay	Log sq	Ext	F Outbldgs
Vacant	FUTURE	B	Alt: Ext		3 bay	Log other	Gone/Repl	None
(Non-lwell)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stable		None-minor		4-5 bay	Other mat	Other	Contemporary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orig Func	Uncertain		Moderate		Over 5		L Chimn Mat	Later
Adapt Func	Endangered		Drastic		Irreg	I Plan	Stone	Extensive
Vacant	DISTANCE FROM LTC	C	Alt: Int	G	Addns	One room	Stone/Bk	
Other	0-10 10-25 25+		None-minor		None	Two room	Bk Com	Q Site
	DISTANCE FROM MUC		Moderate		Orig/early	Hall-Farl	Bk Flem	Orig
	0-25 25-50 50+		Drastic		Late	Quaker	Other	Moved

